**HIS 122 – WORLD WAR ONE REVIEW MATERIALS**

Be familiar with all of the background information below on the outbreak of World War I and United States participation in the Great War.

**The Triple Entente (Allied Powers)**

England

France

Russia

The United States, 1917 – 18

Italy (entered after war started)

**1. THE ORIGINS OF WORLD WAR I IN EUROPE:**

M. – Militarism

A. – Alliance Systems

I. – Imperialism (Colonial Rivalries)

N. – Nationalism

**The Triple Alliance (Central Powers)**

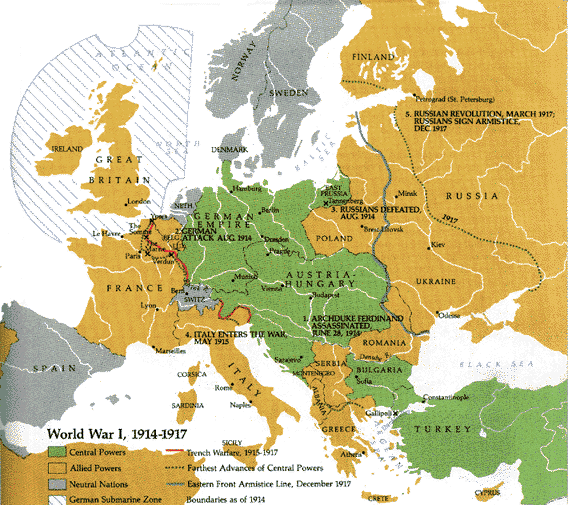
Germany

Austria-Hungary

Italy (switched, 1914)

The Ottoman Empire

Bulgaria



**2. REASONS FOR UNITED STATES NUETRALITY, 1914 – 1917**

It was a European war, and the United States opted to maintain “isolationist” policies in the tradition of Washington’s “Farewell Address” and the Monroe Doctrine.

United States Neutrality,

1914 - 1917

At the time of World War I, the United States still had reservations about a large standing army, and the size of the military was extremely small – just a few hundred thousand soldiers.

Woodrow Wilson’s campaign slogan in the Election of 1916:

“He Kept Us Out of War”

As a nation of immigrants, some Americans were fearful that our entry into the war would lead to fragmentation and conflict at home:

A. Irish-Americans harbored animosity towards Great Britain, and were not enthusiastic about the war.

B. Millions of Americans were of Germany ancestry and did not support a war against their homeland.

C. Many Jewish-American immigrants would not support the Anti-Semitic government of Russia, which was one of the Allies.

Banks and other lending institutions had loaned out millions of dollars in credit to both sides in the war – and American arms suppliers were selling weapons to both sides, too.

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3. **THE REASONS FOR UNITED STATES INVOLVEMENT IN WORLD WAR I**

**Reasons for United States Involvement in World War I:**

* The Sinking of the Lusitania, May 7, 1915 off the coast of Ireland.
* The Violation of the Sussex Pledge – German vow not to sink merchant vessels with their U-boats without warning.
* The Zimmermann Telegram – Germany encouraged Mexico to attack the US
* Loans from US banks to Allied Power nations.
* Woodrow Wilson’s Vision of World War I: “Freedom of the Seas”: “A War to Make the World Safe for Democracy”; and “A War to End All Wars.”

**4. WORLD WAR I AND THE PROGRESSIVE AMENDMENTS**

18th Amendment - Prohibition

The need to save grain for soldiers, moral arguments against drinking during times of war, and anti-German (beer brewing traditions) sentiment led to support for Prohibition.

Support of World War I by women in factory work and political affiliation (Carrie Chapman Catt of the National American Woman’s Suffrage Association, NAWSA) led to support for the woman’s suffrage movement.

19th Amendment –

Woman’s Suffrage

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**5. THE ROLE OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN SOLDIERS DURING WORLD WAR I**

**THE ROLE OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN SOLDIERS IN WORLD WAR I:**

* Over 400,000 African-American soldiers volunteered to serve in the US Army, despite widespread racism in the US and the prospect of segregated units.
* African-American soldiers were required to serve under French commanders on the frontlines in battles of Meuse-Argonne.
* Many won the French Croix de Guerre.



**6. THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION AND ITS CONSEQUENCES DURING WORLD WAR I**



The Eastern Front was closed, allowing Germany to move all of its troops from the Eastern Front to the Western Front.

Once the Bolsheviks took power – murdering the Romanov family to secure power – they quickly signed the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk. The treaty ended Russian participation in the war and gave up vast expansions of territory to Germany.

When Russia became a democratic nation – however briefly – it allowed Woodrow Wilson to frame the war as one “To Make the World Safe for Democracy.”

**THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION**

* The Tsar and Tsarina are overthrown in 1917 due to the frightful casualties on the Eastern Front, bread riots, and the scandals emerging from the influence of Rasputin.
* When the Tsar was overthrown, a brief period of democratic government followed: a democratically elected Duma and President Alexander Kerenski ruled the nation.
* The Bolshevik Revolution resulted in Civil War – and the rise of Vladimir Lenin and communism in Russia.

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**7. THE ESPIONAGE ACT AND THE SEDITION ACT – US CIVIL LIBERTIES VS. NATIONAL SECURITY**

* The curtailment of the right to free speech and first amendment rights like the right to petition the government.
* The arrest of Socialist and anti-war activist Eugene V. Debs.
* The Supreme Court case of *Schenck V. United States* – the ruling upholds restrictions on the free speech in case of “a clear and present danger” to national security.

The Espionage Act of 1917

The Sedition Act of 1918

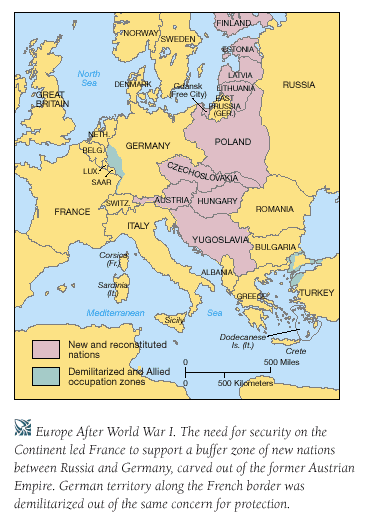
**8. AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE ACTUAL FIGHTING OF WORLD WAR ONE**

**The United States Involvement in the Actual Fighting of World War I**

* The United States raised an army of 5 Million men – and tens of thousands of women – virtually from scratch.
* American “doughboys” fought in 1917 – 1918 at Belleau Wood, Chateau-Thierry, and St. Miheil.
* According to your text, the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) played a large role in the final fall offensive. Germany’s General Erich Ludendorff claimed that a “looming sense of doom” was caused by “the sheer number of Americans arriving daily at the front.”

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**9. WOODROW WILSON’S 14 POINT PLAN AND THE TREATY OF VERSAILLES**

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**MAJOR TENETS OF WILSON’S FOURTEEN POINT PLAN:**

* **No Secret Treaties** – the secret treaty between Russia and Serbia was a major cause of the war.
* **Freedom of the Seas** – outlawing unrestricted submarine warfare.
* **Free Trade** – nations that trade together rarely fight one another, especially when both nations are democratic.
* **Reduction of Arms** – a strike against militarism.
* **Self-Determination of National Governments** – new nations were created in Europe and the Middle East.
* **The League of Nations** – the international peacekeeping organization was Wilson’s top priority.

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**10. DID THE UNITED STATES ACTUALLY RATIFY THE TREATY OF VERSAILLES? DID THE UNITED STATES ACTUALLY JOIN THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS?**

**DID THE UNITED STATES ACTUALLY RATIFY THE TREATY OF VERSAILLES? DID THE UNITED STATES ACTUALLY JOIN THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS?**

* The answer to both questions is “**NO**.”
* NOTE: The United States did attend the Paris Peace Conference and Woodrow Wilson’s 14 Point Plan for peace in Europe was a vital part in the structure to the Treaty of Versailles.
* The Senate, however, must approve all treaties. Republican Senator Henry Cabot Lodge opposed the treaty because he considered the “collective security” obligations in the Treaty to undermine the United States foreign policy. It was never passed.
* Woodrow Wilson went on a long speaking tour of the United States during 1919 to encourage Americans to pass the treaty; however, he suffered a debilitating stroke which left him bedridden for the remainder of his time in office.